MoU with Saudi Arabia

442. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Saudi Arabia propose to sign an MoU on combating international terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent would this action plan help to control illegal trafficking in drugs and falsification of travel documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Delhi Declaration as well as the MoU on Combating Crime that were signed during the State Visit of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia envisage India-Saudi Arabia cooperation in combating terrorism.

(b) The MoU on Combating Crime envisages cooperation in :

a. combating international terrorism,

b. combating illicit use and production, trading, distribution of narcotics/psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals,

c. combating counterfeiting of currency/securities, falsification of travel documents and visas,

d. combating smuggling of items of historical/cultural value, precious stones/metals and other luxury articles,

e. search/seizure/confiscation of properties/monies derived from crimes and international terrorism,

(c) As terrorist and other criminal acts frequently involve activities and linkages across national boundaries, international cooperation is essential to effectively combat them.